

Applicants : Joseph S. Stam et al.
Appln. No. : 10/759,359
Page : 7

REMARKS

In the present Reply, Applicants have cancelled claims 1-5, without prejudice, and have added new claims 21-25. New claim 21 corresponds to original claim 6 of parent Application No. 09/970,728 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,681,163). That original claim 6 was cancelled from the '728 parent application. Claims 6-25 are now pending.

In the present Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1-5 of the '163 patent. This was a statutory-type double patenting rejection. By cancelling claims 1-5, this rejection is now moot.

In the present Office Action, the Examiner also rejected claims 6-20 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-11 of the '163 patent. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Nevertheless, in order to expedite the prosecution of this application, Applicants have included herewith a Terminal Disclaimer under 37 C.F.R. § 1.321, Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 3.73(b), establishing the right of the Assignee to take action, and a check in the amount of \$130 for the fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.20(d).

Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in immediate condition for allowance. Applicants also respectfully submit that this Reply is fully responsive to the above-referenced Office Action and does not introduce any new matter.

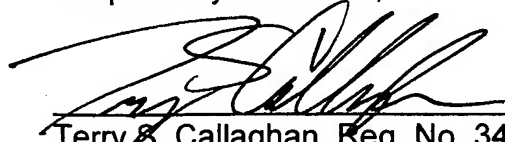
CONCLUSION

If the Examiner has any questions or comments with respect to this Reply, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 616/949-9610.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date



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